

**REMARKS**

**Summary of the Office Action**

The drawings stand objected to for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because the drawings allegedly do not include one or more reference signs mentioned in the description.

The drawings stand objected to for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because the drawings allegedly do not show every feature of the claims.

The specification stands objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1 and 2 stand objected to because of informalities.

Claims 4, 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 1-5, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sukegawa et al.* (USPN 5,636,329).

Claims 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sukegawa et al.* (USPN 5,636,329) in view Applicant's allegedly admitted prior art.

**Summary of the Response to the Office Action**

Applicants have amended claims 1-2, 4, 6, and 19-20. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are presently pending with claims 1-9 and 19-20 being under consideration.

Applicants have also amended the drawings and the specification. A Replacement Drawing Sheet is appended hereto.

**The Objections to the Drawings**

The drawings stand objected to for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because the drawings allegedly do not include one or more reference signs mentioned in the description. In a Replacement Drawing Sheet appended hereto, Applicants have amended Figure 2 to change reference number 13 to reference number 16 in accordance with the comments of the Examiner.

The drawings stand objected to for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because the drawings allegedly do not show every feature of the claims. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the drawings do not show the features of “the upper and side surfaces of the gate and data pads are completely covered by the insulating film and the transparent conductive film” as recited by claim 6 or “the insulating film is formed on side surfaces and upper parts of the gate and data pads” as recited by claim 7. Applicants respectfully disagree. In the exemplary Figure 3, the first metal layer 43, which may be the gate metal, is completely covered by the gate insulating film 45/the protective film 47 and the transparent metal layer 49. In the exemplary Figure 5, the first metal layer 43, which may be the drain/source metal, is completely covered by the protective film 47 and the transparent metal layer 49. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the features alleged by the Office Action to not be shown in the drawings, are indeed shown.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

**The Objections to the Specification and Claims**

The specification stands objected to because of informalities. Claims 1 and 2 stand objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended the specification and the claims in accordance with the comments of the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the specification and the claims be withdrawn.

**The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 4 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

With respect to claim 4, while Applicants respectfully assert that the informality noted in the Office Action does not rise to the level of indefiniteness, Applicants have amended the claim in accordance with the comments of the Examiner. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that the amendment of claim 4 does not narrow the intended scope of the claim.

With respect to original claim 6, the Office Action cites the language of claim 6 that recites “the upper and side surfaces of the gate and data pads are completely covered by the insulating film and the transparent conductive film.” The Office Action specifically alleges that it is unclear how the upper and side surfaces of the gate and data pads can both cover the transparent film. Applicants respectfully disagree. With respect to the noted claim language, Applicants respectfully note that the insulating film and the transparent conductive film are “covering”, rather “being covered” as alleged by the Office Action. As shown in the exemplary Figure 3, the first metal layer 43, which may be the gate metal, is completely covered by the gate insulating film 45/the protective film 47 and the transparent metal layer 49. In the exemplary

Figure 5, the first metal layer 43, which may be the drain/source metal, is completely covered by the protective film 47 and the transparent metal layer 49.

With respect to original claim 7, the Office Action cites the language of original claim 7 that recites “the insulating film is formed on side surfaces and upper parts of the gate and data pads.” The Office Action alleges that this language is contradictory with the language of original claim 6. Applicants respectfully disagree. As noted above, original claim 6 does not recite the insulating film being completely covered. Instead, claim 6 recites that the upper and side surfaces of the gate and data pads are completely covered. Moreover, original claim 7 does not recite parts of upper surface but upper parts.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn. If the Examiner requests any addition explanations, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants’ undersigned representative.

**The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)**

Claims 1-5 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sukegawa et al.* (USPN 5,636,329). Claims 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sukegawa et al.* in view Applicants’ allegedly admitted prior art. Applicants traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

With respect to independent claims 1, Applicants respectfully assert that *Sukegawa et al.* does not disclose an anisotropic conductive film formed to cover entire upper and side surfaces of transparent conductive layers. The Office Action asserts that transparent conductive film 8 of *Sukegawa et al.* is a “transparent conductive layer” as claimed and that anisotropic conductive

film 10 of *Sukegawa et al.* is an “anisotropic conductive film” as claimed. Applicants respectfully disagree. As disclosed in Figures 3E, 4B, or 5B of *Sukegawa et al.*, for example, the anisotropic conductive film 10 of *Sukegawa et al.* does not cover entire upper surfaces of transparent conductive film 10, as set forth by independent claim 1. For instance, opening portion 14 of *Sukegawa et al.* exposes a portion of transparent conductive film 10. (See also column 6, lines 26-31 of *Sukegawa et al.*.)

Applicants respectfully assert that the Office Action does not rely on Applicants’ allegedly admitted prior art to teach or suggest these features. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that Applicants’ allegedly admitted prior art cannot remedy these deficiencies.

With respect to independent claim 6, as amended, Applicants respectfully assert that the applied art, whether taken singly or combined, does not teach or suggest a combination wherein upper, side, and end surfaces of the gate and data pads are completely covered by the insulating film and the transparent conductive layer. Applicants respectfully assert that *Sukegawa et al.* does not show ends of the metal wiring 2, and therefore, does not show the ends being covered. Further, Applicants’ allegedly admitted prior art shows the ends being exposed.

Applicants also respectfully assert that the Office Action has cited no motivation to modify the teachings of *Sukegawa et al.* with those of Applicants’ allegedly admitted prior art. While Applicants’ allegedly admitted prior art does indicate that a grinding area is one technique sometimes used in the conventional art, merely being conventional art is not a motivation to modify the teachings of *Sukegawa et al.* MPEP § 2143 instructs that “[t]he mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious

unless the prior art also suggest the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990)."

Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 19 and 20, as amended, are allowable for at least reasons similar to those as discussed above with regard to independent claim 6.

Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) should be withdrawn because the applied art does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1, 6 and 19-20. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-5, 7-9 and 20 are allowable at least because of their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 19, and the reasons set forth above.

**Conclusion**

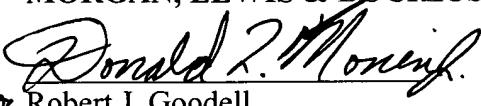
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 31, 2003

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